

August 2021 | E-Newsletter

Center for Gonorrhea Excellence

Welcome!

We would like to welcome you to the inaugural issue of the Center for Gonorrhea Excellence e-newsletter!

The Center for Gonorrhea Excellence was established as part of the CDC-funded **Strengthening the U.S. Response to Resistant Gonorrhea (SURRG)** grant in Indiana and has become a centralized repository of information on best practices related to management of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infections, especially as it relates to the threat of antibiotic resistant gonorrhea.



The center also focuses on improving the quality of data pertaining to people diagnosed with gonorrhea, which will improve our understanding of the risk factors associated with acquiring gonorrhea and the healthcare seeking behaviors practiced by patients that have been diagnosed. These activities will be included in another CDC-funded project in Indiana, the **STD Surveillance Network (SSuN)** grant and will enhance our STD surveillance activities at the state and local level.

This routine newsletter will provide the latest information from the CDC and/or the Indiana Department of Health on all things gonorrhea — including managing gonorrhea infections, reporting cases of suspected treatment failures, preparing for potential outbreaks and resources for both healthcare providers and patients.

Gonorrhea in the news

This section includes national and international headlines relating to gonorrhea.

Updated gonorrhea treatment guidelines

The CDC released **updated recommendations for treatment of uncomplicated *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infections** on December 18, 2020, based on a review of recent evidence concerning antimicrobial stewardship and increasing incidences of Azithromycin resistance. The newest recommendation **removes Azithromycin** as one of the front-line medications for gonorrhea... [\[read more\]](#).

Full 2021 STI treatment guidelines

The CDC also just released the full **2021 STI Treatment Guidelines** in the July 23rd *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Review (MMWR) Recommendations and Reports*. The full list includes **changing front-line chlamydia treatment from Azithromycin to Doxycycline**, as well as changes to regimens for ***Trichomonas vaginalis*** and **pelvic inflammatory disease**... [\[read more\]](#).

Information hub

The following sections provides specific resources available from the center as they pertain to best practices around gonorrhea. If you'd like to see more resources in these hubs, please let us know.

Did you know?

The name "the clap", in reference to gonorrhea, was recorded as early as the sixteenth century, referring to a medieval red-light district in Paris called "Les Clapiers".

Provider resources



If you suspect a patient **may be a treatment failure** and **cannot perform a gonorrhea culture** for susceptibility testing at your agency, our team supervisor can coordinate scheduling of culture testing and any necessary treatment through our partner site, the [Bell Flower STD Clinic](#) in Indianapolis. If the patient is able to commute to this clinic, fill out this [survey](#) to initiate the schedule coordination.

Data & surveillance



An increase in STDs, especially for gonorrhea, continues in Indiana. Here is a [link](#) to an interactive map showing the rates of gonorrhea cases per county for the state in 2019. County rates are compared to those of the national average reported in the **2019 STD Surveillance Report**. Counties with case counts of less than 20 have an asterisk by their rate (*) and those with counts less than five have their rate suppressed.

When it comes to antibiotic resistance, data from the 2019 [report](#) showed that **more than half of all gonorrhea infections were resistant to at least one antibiotic**. Prior antibiotic regimens for gonorrhea, including Ciprofloxacin, Tetracycline and Penicillin, continue to have high levels of resistance. Sentinel surveillance now shows **Azithromycin resistance above 5%** — one of the driving factors for the change in treatment recommendations.

Recent ARGC literature

- ♦ [Exploring and comparing the structure of sexual networks](#)

Upcoming events

- ♦ [Understanding Black MSM- Part 1](#)
- ♦ [Podcast: Dismantling Racism- Explicit biases within HIV care](#)
- ♦ [Trauma-Informed Care in Reproductive and Sexual Health](#)

State resources

- ♦ [STD prevention website](#)
- ♦ [Center for Gonorrhea Excellence website](#)

National resources

- ♦ [CDC Division of STD Prevention](#)
- ♦ [APHA Reproductive & Sexual Health](#)

General STD info



The prevention webpage **has been recently overhauled and has an exciting new layout!** Viewers can now click through individual topic tabs to view info and resources in their designated sections.

Tabs include:

- ♦ Mission & Vision
- ♦ Get Tested!
- ♦ Healthcare Providers
- ♦ Reporting STDs
- ♦ STD Treatment Guidelines
- ♦ STD Data Trends
- ♦ Educational Resources

*If you would like to submit a **data request** for the surveillance team, use the online survey [link](#) to fill out a request form.*

Editor's Desk



Have news or literature you'd like to see featured?
Have an event coming up you'd like to share?

Contact the newsletter editor to submit for distribution.

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